



News Release

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West Valley City Mayor Mike Winder and Council Member Steve Buhler Announce West Valley City English Initiative

West Valley City – At an event this morning, West Valley City Mayor Mike Winder and Council Member Steve Buhler announced the West Valley City English Initiative, a program encouraging all residents of West Valley City to learn English. The announcement was met with excitement throughout the community, and supporters including Senator Luz Robles and Utah Minutemen Project Co-Chair Eli Cawley were present to speak in favor of the project.

"While there is much discussion about immigration on the state and federal level, on the local level the largest obstacle to becoming a cohesive community is the language barrier," says Mayor Mike Winder. "I feel that the West Valley City English Language Initiative is a strong step in the right direction by encouraging all of our residents to learn and use English as quickly as possible."

During this morning's announcement, Council Member Steve Buhler read a proclamation stating that West Valley City wishes to continue the tradition of welcoming and encouraging its ethnic population, and will continue to promote the American Dream.

"The West Valley City English Initiative is intended to unite the community through a common language," says Council Member Steve Buhler. "We hope to enhance the sense of community by encouraging all residents to learn a common language that can be spoken at home, in neighborhoods, at schools, and throughout the City."

In addition to encouraging all residents to learn and speak English, the West Valley City English Initiative encourages all businesses and housing providers to use English in signs, advertisements, promotions and menus. The proclamation also encourages residents to learn multiple languages, including their ancestral languages, and invites those interested in learning English to visit www.englishwvc.org for a list of English classes.

"I appreciate Mayor Winder, Councilman Buhler, and the other leaders in West Valley City who are committed to unite their community behind English language acquisition," says Senator Luz Robles. "They are to be commended for working to improve the economic and social opportunities for their immigrant communities and for promoting integration in the great city of West Valley that I proudly represent in the Utah State Legislature."

"This proclamation is a good first step in bringing to the forefront efforts to unite everyone with an interest in dealing with the consequences of illegal migration," says Utah Minutemen Project Co-Chair Eli Cawley. "A necessary step towards moving forward together, knowing, speaking and learning English, not only lessens certain anxieties in our community, but will bring more economic success as well."

More information about the West Valley City English Initiative, as well as a list of resources for those wishing to learn English is available at www.englishwvc.org.

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